

Consensus (language or concepts from Brazos BBASC meeting rules, dated April 2011)

A consensus is reached when all members participating in a meeting at which there is a quorum agree that their major interests have been taken into consideration and addressed in a satisfactory manner so they can support the decision of the group.

Members need not embrace each element of the agreement, nor have all their interests completely satisfied. Members recognize that, given the combination of gains and trade-offs in the decision package and given current circumstances and alternative options, the agreement is the best one they can make at this time.

Principles of Consensus

- Everyone actively participates.
- Members have a common base of information.
- Group creates atmosphere where everyone can share views and can disagree.
- Respect disagreement as illuminating problems, improving decisions.
- Use disagreement to discover unmet needs, and to find a way to meet them.
- Be specific about concerns with a proposal, explain why it matters, and be open to options to address it.

Consensus Decision-Making

